and inflows from non-Resident Indians, so as to meet the current account deficits in the balance of payments.

Overdraft facilities for grain traders

841. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that big grain traders have been given facilities for overdraft to the extent of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, what is the overdraft facility in the case of traders whose premises were raided in the dehoarding drive carried out by Delhi Administration; and

(c) what action Government proposes to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) The advances granted against stocks of paddy/rice, wheat, pulses and other foodgrains, namely, jowar, bajra, maize, barley, ragi, etc. are subject to the provisions of selective credit control of Reserve Bank of India. RBI has reported that it has not approved any overdraft facility to the extent of crores of rupees to any single borrower trading in the above foodgrains. RBI adopts a restrictive credit policy in respect of such traders by stipulating a high margin of 75 per cent in respect of foodgrain at present (with an exception of 60 per cent in respect of wheat) and allowing the traders to maintain a low inventory level. Under the selective credit control policy, the quantum of credit is controlled by fixing the minimum margin for lending and ceilings on the levels of credit. The policy in this regard is modified from time to time by RBI in such a manner as is considered appropriate to meet particular situations or to achieve the desired directional flow of credit.

Tax evasion by edible oil traders in Maharashtra and Gujarat

842. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the Indian Express dated 22nd January, 1992 regarding huge tax evasion to the tune of crores of rupees by the edible oil traders in Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The study conducted by the Institute of Rural Management, Anand, mentioned in the news paper report, refers primarily to evasion of taxes levied by the State Government. It is based on certain estimates of yield and profitability. The study does not provide any firm evidence for detection of tax evasion in individual cases.

Reduction in staff strength in Government Offices

843. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently initiated certain measures to effect reduction in the strength of officials, etc. as an austerity drive;

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof;

(c) what is the percentage by which Government expenditure is estimated to be reduced as a result thereof; and

(d) what is the manner in which Government propose to rehabilitate the effected persons as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) With a view to effect economy in expenditure, a review of the staff strength in the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and their field formations has